

14 May 1986

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM:

Deputy Director for Public Affairs

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SUBJECT: Intelligence Week

1. I was contacted today by Larry Sulc, Director of the Nathan Hale Foundation, who is spearheading legislation that would declare an "Intelligence Week" sometime in June. He told me that the Senate had passed such a resolution but that its prospects for passage by the House looked poor. He also acknowledged having received the DCI's recent letter in which it was stated that CIA endorsed the idea but could neither lobby nor participate in any official way, and in which the Public Affairs Office was cited as point of contact for this matter. Sulc was telephoning to call our chit and to say that he is moving ahead with plans for Intelligence Week.

2. Sulc asked if we could arrange for a wreath-laying ceremony by a cadre from AFIO at the Nathan Hale statue at CIA Headquarters. I told him that would have to be officially sanctioned, which would be contrary to the DCI's guidance. Moreover, I told him such a ceremony would be without purpose unless it were a media event, which I felt sure would be out of the question for security reasons. I then asked him to consider as an alternative a wreath-laying at the Hale statue at Treasury, or perhaps at Donovan's gravesite in Arlington Cemetery. He reacted enthusiastically to these suggestions and asked for more if we had them. He then asked for our help in getting the White House on board. I ducked that one and referred him to Bush's office, noting that the VP is still a big CIA fan. I also suggested that his best bet would be to round up supporters from AFIO and from Ray Cline and company, which I know he is working on.

3. I told him we would remain available for consultation and we closed on a cordial note.

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In Honor of Nathan Hale

Remarks of Lawrence B. Sulc
President, Nathan Hale Institute
At a Wreath Laying at the Nathan Hale Statue
Washington, D.C.
June 6, 1986

Throughout American history, until well into the second world war, our nation depended repeatedly on amateur intelligence personnel to fill its needs in this vital area. These were the "minutemen" of intelligence, if you will. Nathan Hale was one of those countless American civilians who over two centuries have rallied to the colors in time of need. He became a soldier and he became a spy. "I wish to be useful," he said, "and every kind of service necessary to the public good becomes honorable by becoming necessary."

Early in the war he led a daring "special operation" against the British in New York harbor. Leading a small group of volunteers, he succeeded in seizing an enemy supply vessel, protected by the guns of a man-of-war, without loss of life on either side. He thus captured desperately-needed supplies for Washington's forces.

Hale was untrained and unequipped for his final intelligence mission. He lacked a cypher, contact instructions and a communication system. He was without administrative or headquarters support. His case officer was dead, killed the day after the young captain was dispatched. Hale had volunteered for a dangerous mission and, although ill-prepared against great odds, through his own initiative, resourcefulness and personal courage, he nonetheless succeeded in every respect but one. On his way back through the "no man's land" between the lines, he failed to elude a patrol of the enemy's best "special forces" unit. Every school child has heard of Roger's Rangers; it was these elite troops who captured the inexperienced, 21-year-old soldier-spy. The rest is history.

America is indeed fortunate today to have permanent, professional intelligence services and to have within them so many skilled, dedicated people, determined to keep America free. We need to recognize the continuing contribution of these people in our national intelligence community. So, today, we honor the memory of Captain Nathan Hale, an early practitioner of American intelligence, who symbolizes the selfless dedication of our nation's intelligence personnel. Hale regretted that he had "but one life to lose" for his country, but he had told a friend before he departed on that fateful mission: "If the exigencies of my country demand a peculiar service, its claims to perform that service are imperious." We thank Nathan Hale for his service and his example, and we express our appreciation to the personnel of our national intelligence community today.